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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 /098 W
---------- 032767
R 192006Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5774
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB AIFLD XL TD
SUBJECT: AIFLD COUNTRY ISSUE

REF: STATE 216964

1. AIFLD HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN T&T DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE PRESENT CARIBBEAN ANNEX. DUE TO CONTINUED RESTRAINTS ON FOREIGN GRANTS TO TRINIDADIANS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE ANNEX FOR THE FY 74-75 PERIOD MUST ALSO INCLUDE THE PROVISION, AS IN SECTION E PARAGRAPH 12 OF THE PRESENT ANNEX, THAT NO AIFLD ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE IN T&T WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE EMBASSY.

2. AIFLD REGIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH THE CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOUR (CCL) SHOULD BE CONTINUED. THE ADVISORY ROLE OF THE CCL FOR LABOR AND MANPOWER AFFAIRS IN THE NEWLY CREATED REGIONAL ORGANIZATION HAS INCREASED CCL POTENTIAL AS A UNIFYING FORCE FOR THE AREA.

3. WE HOPE THAT CURRENT CHANGES IN THE T&T POLITICAL SCENE MAY PERMIT US IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE TO WORK OUT, IN SUCH A WAY THAT INITIATIVE WILL COME FROM GOTT
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QUIETLY AND PRAGMATICALLY, RESUMPTION OF EXCHANGE. IF SO,

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AIFLD IN TIME MIGHT BE ABLE TO RESUME ITS ACTIVITIES IN
T&T ESPECIALLY WITH TRAINING OF THE SECOND LEVEL LEADERS WHO
NOW ARE CARRYING MUCH OF THE NEGOTIATING AND SERVICING LOAD
OF THE UNIONS. IN ADDITION TO THE STRICTLY LABOR SUBJECTS
COVERED IN SEMINARS AND AT FRONT ROYAL, AIFLD ALSO SHOULD
CONSIDER SPECIALISED PROGRAMS OF SOCIAL INTEREST SUCH AS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT OR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT WHICH COULD HAVE
FAR-REACHING EFFECT ON THE SUCCESS OF CONSUMER AND PRODUCER
COOPERATIVE VENTURES NOW UNDER UNION SPONSORSHIP.

4. TRINIDAD'S ACTIVE LABOR UNIONS, WHICH COUNT OVER 30
PERCENT OF EMPLOYEES IN T&T, ARE POTENTIALLY CRITICAL FOR
FUTURE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AIFLD AND US
UNIONS HAVE HAD A LONG AND FRUITFUL CONTACT WITH THE T&T
LABOUR CONGRESS (TTLC) MODERATE MAJORITY. TTLC IS ALSO ONE
OF MOST ACTIVE SUPPORTERS OF CCL AND THIS TERM TTLC PRESIDENT
CRICHLOW ALSO SERVES AS CCL PRESIDENT. OPPOSED TO THE
MODERATES IS A LOOSE GROUPING OF RADICAL MILITANT UNIONS
WHICH CALLS ITSELF THE COUNCIL OF PROGRESSIVE TRADE UNIONS
(CPTU). THE INFLUENCE OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN CPTU HAS REMAINED
CONSTANT THROUGH THE YEARS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS INCLUDING
THE WILLINGNESS OF MEMBER UNIONS TO TAKE IRRESPONSIBLE AND
ILLEGAL ACTIONS TO GAIN THEIR GOALS AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO
RADICAL POLITICAL CHANGE. IN THE UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION
FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS, EXPECTED RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE
WE EXPECT THE RADICAL UNIONS TO INCREASE THEIR POLITICALLY ORIENTED
ACTIVITIES. THE LONG-TERM TREND OF THE MODERATE MAJORITY
LOOKING TOWARD THE EXAMPLE OF TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION FOUND
IN THE U.S. COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY TERMINATION OF THE
AIFLD PROGRAM IN THE CARIBBEAN.
MARSHALL

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